

Dec 1973



The

MESSENGER

THE
UNITED
REFORMED
CHURCH

St. Stephen's,
Milnrow

&

LittlebörOUGH

The Manse,

December 1973

Dear Friends,

Many people have asked, since we have been here, 'Are you settling in happily?', and invariably I have replied that it is easy to settle in where the folk are so friendly and helpful. So much has been done to assist us that I would like to take this opportunity of saying 'thank you' to all for your kindness. We look forward to working usefully together for the strengthening of the Church and the service of the people of Milnrow and Littleborough. If you should see us in the streets please don't hesitate to speak for you will recognise us quicker than we shall recognise you (at least for a while to come) and we shall be glad to see you.

Looking around the shops in Manchester recently it came as quite a surprise to notice that many had Christmas decorations already up. I hadn't realised Christmas was quite so near. Perhaps you have and are already well ahead with your plans for the great occasion.

Christmas is a festival of the family, a time when everybody is remembered and as many as can try to meet together. Supremely of course, Christmas is the festival of God's family, for at the first Christmas God came, more than ever, right into our lives.

It has been a great joy to find the family Church so well established here and at Littleborough and to see parents and children all sharing in learning together. May I invite any who may have been thinking about linking up with a Church to come along with your family and join our friendly crowd. You will receive a welcome.

May God bless you all.

Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH.

IN MEMORIAM

HARRIET MARY BEATTIE of 32 Todmorden passed away on the 10th November, at the age of 73. Our Littleborough Church has sustained a great loss by her death for she has served the church for over 40 years. We extend our sympathy to Mr. Boattie and Mrs. K. Hill. (A tribute to Mrs. Beattie appears on Page 13)

ALBERT CHADWICK of 10 Raines Crest, Milnrow, died in Birch Hill Hospital on the 2nd November, at the age of 73. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Chadwick and Family at this time

HAROLD WARD of 5 Bishop Street, Rochdale, departed this life on the 9th November, aged 69. We send our sympathy to Mrs. Ward and to Mr. & Mrs. G. Mallinson.

Our Minister Revd. A. Nash B.A., conducted the funerals for all the above.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

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CHURCH TREASURER PRODUCES A SURPLUS

Congratulations to....Mr. & Mrs. B.CLOUGH, of 9 Bowland Grove, Milnrow, on the arrival of NEIL on the 6th November. Don't spoil him Della!

SILVER LININGS

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. H.N. Hill who celebrated their Silver Wedding on 27th November.

We hope they had a very happy day; full of pleasant memories.

THANKS from Littleborough once again to the Magazine team at Milnrow; the editor- Mr. Royle; the typist - Mrs. Emmott; and all who help in any way.

A MINISTRY BEGINS

There is much favourable comment about the way in which the Revd. Alfred Nash B.A., and Mrs. Nash have set to work making friends within our community. It must be a difficult task remembering all our names to say nothing of all our individual oddities of nature, but Mr. Nash looks like the sort of chap who will make a good try of it to say the least. This is an exciting stage in the life of our church; a time of uncertainty and hope.

The induction service was held on the evening of the 14th November. Your editor was unable to be present because of a Milnrow Council meeting held at the same time. How ironic that in two buildings next to one another there could be so much difference of mood; at the Council, a mood of defeat and despair as members looked forward regretfully to the end of the U.D.C. in April; in St. Stephen's, a festive and optimistic mood prevailed.

At the Induction the clergy were there in abundance. ("A plethora of parsons" or "a revival of Referends") Revd. D.G. Stewart, Moderator of the N.W. Province of the United Reformed Church actually performed the induction, but others taking part included Revd. T.P. Strachan and Revd. W. Purvis, (respectively Chairman and Secretary of the N.E. Manchester District), Revd. D. Whitehead and our interim moderator who has served us so nobly, the Revd. R.A.C. West.

There was special singing by the Choir, led by Mrs. A. Baines and accompanied by Mr. A. Clegg on the electronic organ hired for the occasion. The two church secretaries welcomed the minister, who later received the greetings from other churches whilst refreshments were served in the schoolroom.

Mention of the two church secretaries, should remind us of the great debt we owe them at this time in recognition of the responsibilities they have borne so well in recent months. Theirs has been a challenging and sometimes lonely task. We thank God the Church has such men as . . . Allan Roberts and Fred Simpson....Thank you gentlemen!

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FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

Dec. 2nd	"Born for us" Isaiah 9: 2 - 7
9th	"Honest Justice" Isaiah 11: 1 - 5
16th	"Sackcloth or Compassion" Isaiah 58: 6 - 10
23rd	"On Earth His Peace" Luke 2: 8 - 20
30th	"Eternal Life made Visible" 1 John 1: 1 - 7

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A THOUGHT FOR STRANGERS

If, after Church, you wait awhile,
Someone may greet you with a smile.
But, if you quickly rise and flee,
We'll all seem cold and stiff, Maybe
The one beside you in the pew
Is, perhaps a stranger too.
All here, like you have fears and cares;
All of us need each other's prayers.
In fellowship we bid you meet
With us, around God's Mercy Seat.

(From Grasmere Methodist Church)

Submitted by Mrs. Isobel Smith of Milnrow

MAKING MONEY.....AT ST. STEPHEN'S

THRIFTY LADIES.....

The Ladies Guild One Day Thrift Shop held in October raised the sum of £45.50.

Sincere thanks are extended to the committee that organised it, and all those who helped in any way.

RAGS TO RICHES.....

The World Mission Committee benefited by £5 by holding a fashion show on the 20th November. This was a "Good as New" fashion show given by "Can Can"

BRASS FROM STEEL.....

A Stainless Steel Demo and Coffee Evening organised by the Efforts Committee on 13th November raised £11.

MORE BRASS.....

The Band concert given on the 10th November by the C.W.S. Manchester Band at Roch Valley School, was not the great financial success it might have been but it was nevertheless a most enjoyable venture. Derek Garside conducted as the band played a programme of 11 pieces including "Rule Britannia", "Thundercrest", "Selections from the Gondoliers", "Finlandia", "Springsong" and "Selections from Oliver".

Full credit should go to Mr. A. Busill who undertook the bulk of the organising of this ambitious and pleasant project.

SALLY RALLY

Once again members of our Women's Guild attended the Annual Home League Rally of the Shaw Salvation Army on Monday 19th November. The speaker, Lieutenant Colonel H. Pidgeon, gave an interesting address about the work she does with in London and in different parts of the country. Her talk was enlivened by accounts of amusing and touching incidents arising from her work. The atmosphere was friendly, and a lovely supper added to the enjoyment of the occasion.

SAM SONG

There was a good attendance at the November meeting of the Women's Guild, when we listened with interest to the well known TV script writer, Mr. John Finch, telling us about his work and the problems which can arise when writing for television. After his talk, Mr. Finch was kept busy for a further 'episode' answering the many questions posed by the ladies. During the natural break tea was served.

RECONCILIATION

"Every month brings its own
gift of beauty to remember.
But the month that crowns the
year is December, when God
and Man are reconciled by the
little Christmas Child"

(Patience Strong)

POST HASTE

May we remind Milnrow readers that we again intend to operate our own Christmas Post service. Cards can be deposited in the box in the Church Porch, from which there will be a collections on the 9th and 16th December. Users of the service are invited to make an appropriate donation in the World Mission Box.

Members of NUSP (National Union of Stephen's Postmen) wish to remind users that due to a work to rule, they are only able to deliver within the bounds of Milnrow U.D.C. So those with friends in Crompton and the Canary Islands had better deliver their own.

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Please note that Missionary Boxes should be handed in on Sunday, 9th December.

The CHRISTMAS AFAYRE at St. Stephen's on Saturday, 8th December, will be opened by the Pilots at 3 pm. Admission Adults 5p; Children 2½p.

Will those who are giving goods to the Pound and Bottle stall, please bring them to the school on Friday evening, 7th December.

There will be special music by the choir at the CAROL SERVICE on Sunday, 16th December at 6. pm. Come and sing your favourite carols and listen to new ones.

On Monday, 17th December, the Carol Singers will leave the church at 6.30 pm. If you enjoy singing carols, come and join us!

CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

TOY SERVICE

Sunday
2nd Dec.
11.0 am.

CHRISTMAS AFAYRE

3 pm.

Saturday, 8th Dec.

CHRISTMAS DANCE

7 pm.

Opened by Pilots

Father Christmas

Adults 25p

Children 15p

CAROL SERVICE

Sunday
16th Dec.
6.0 pm.

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CAROL SINGING

around
the
district
Monday
17th Dec.
6.30 pm.

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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Monday
24th Dec.
11.30 pm.

THE PRICELESS GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a season
for joy and merrymaking,
A time for gifts and presents,
for giving and for taking...
A festive, friendly happy time
when everyone is gay -
But have we ever really felt
the Greatness of the Day...
For through the centuries the world
has wandered far away
From the beauty and the meaning
of the Holy Christmas Day...
For Christmas is a heavenly gift
that only God can give,
It's ours just for the asking,
for as long as we shall live ...
It can't be bought or bartered,
it can't be won or sold,
It doesn't cost a penny
and it's worth far more than gold...
It isn't bright and gleaming
for eager eyes to see,
It can't be wrapped in tinsel
or placed beneath a tree...
It isn't soft and shimmering
for reaching hands to touch,
Or some expensive luxury
you've wanted very much...
For the Priceless Gift of Christmas
is meant just for the heart
And we receive it only
when we become a part
Of the kingdom and the glory
which is ours to freely take,
For God sent the Holy Christ Child
at Christmas for our sake,

So man might come to know Him
and feel His Presence near
And see the many miracles
performed while He was here...
And this Priceless Gift of Christmas
is within the reach of all,
The rich, the poor, the young and old
the greatest and the small...
So take His Priceless Gift of Love;
reach out and you receive,
And the only payment that God asks
is just that You Believe.

.....Helen Steiner Rice

(from a book of a collection of her poems)

A
M E R R Y
C H R I S T M A S

and

A
H A P P Y
N E W Y E A R

To all our readers

FAIR DOES....(At Littleborough)

We were happy to welcome back Mr. Bill Griffiths as chairman for our Autumn Fair on the 17th November, which was opened by the Chairman of Littleborough Council, Councillor J.N. Angus. The preliminary devotions were led by our minister, who later moved a vote of thanks to those who had contributed to the success of the event in various ways, including the soloist, Mt. Peter Walker; the piano accompanist, Mrs. Wallbank; and the children who so delightfully presented the buttonholes to the guests.

The final figures have yet to be confirmed, but the sum raised seems to be higher than it has been for several years, and this is a tribute to the Fair Treasurer, the coupon sellers, stall holders, tea room staff and to many others who worked so hard. Well done all.

LITTLEBOROUGH'S FUTURE IN THE BALANCE.....

.....Councillor Angus won some scales in the raffle. The tray was won by Mr. Clifford Shore, Transport Manager of Ashe Laboratories. (If this were a corny magazine we might have said - 'Labora-trays').

THANKS.....

.....from the Young People's stall to all those who bought cards and gifts from our catalogues and especially to those who brought in the extra custom from their friends at home and at work. We are happy to announce a £60 profit from this enterprise.

MRS. BEATTIE

For 40 years Mrs. Beattie has been associated with our church at Littleborough; as member, deacon and elder. She will be long remembered for the quiet and efficient way in which she carried out all those duties done in the service of Jesus.

She busied herself in the service of the church for a long time and in many ways; as head of the tea room at our annual fairs, as a sick visitor, as secretary of the Women's Guild, and she undertook to prepare the communion table for our services.

We remember her with love and tenderness and thank God for her life and service in His name. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to Mr. Beattie, Mrs. K. Hill and all their relatives at this time of deep loss, and we pray that God will sustain them.

SWEET FAREWELL

Mrs. Audrey Walls sends her thanks to the Women's Guild and to the teachers and children of Junior Church, for the lovely farewell gifts. She sends her good wishes to the Church and to all those in it who have been such fine friends.

COMPENSATIONS

Winter brings its compensations
Though the skies be grim and grey.
There are many consolations
At the ending of the day;
Fireside chairs and twilight teas,
Home and books and memories.

(Patience Strong)

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

THE TOY SERVICE.....

.....will be held on Sunday, the 9th December at 10.30 am. We appeal to all children to help by giving toys, dolls, books or anything which has given happiness already and which can give more happiness - but this time to children who do not have much joy out of life.

Help to make another child's Christmas Morning by handing your contribution to Mr. R. Vincent, probation officer, at the Toy Service.

THE CAROL SERVICE.....

..... will be held on Sunday, 16th December at 6.0 pm., when the Rev. A.V.J. Nash will lead the worship.

Christmas is a good time to sing.

PILOTS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS.....

.....will be held on Wednesday, the 18th December at 7.0 pm. There will be something for all age groups - Surprise! Surprise! Bring all the family and support the pilots, and encourage them too.

Refreshments will be available.

PARTY.....

..... for the Croche at morning service on Sunday, 23rd December.

DEADLINE DATE FOR JANUARY MESSENGER:
16th December.

Will contributors from both churches please arrange to let the editor have material promptly, in view of the Christmas Holidays coming during the publication period.

ROTAS NOTAS

1. There are vacancies on the Flower Rota for February 17th and July 21st. If you would like to make a gift of flowers to our Church please contact Mrs. A. Stott.
2. The end of the year is a suitable time to thank all those who volunteer for the various duties on our rotas. Yours is a worthy contribution to the smooth running of our church life.

When you make your New Year Resolutions please resolve to fulfil these obligations promptly and when scheduled. If unable to attend please find a substitute. (The Editor has noted this point for himself.)

COME IN LIKE A LION IN MARCH

Just to give you a little advanced information, we are planning to hold a Family Weekend early in March, and this will include, as part of the Saturday evening entertainment, a Fancy Dress Parade. So those mums who have nothing to do this Christmas now have something to think about.

ADVENT

Mary, in your time of waiting
when you felt the God-child stir,
did you ponder on the future -
gold and frankincense and myrrh?

Did you see the gallows waiting
on that naked hill of shame?
Did you tremble every Friday?
Were you glad when Sunday came?

When you shivered in the stable
cold and dark as any tomb
did you hope that in the future
I would give him room?

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

Dec. 2nd	Mr. A. Bruckshaw	Mrs. A. Baines
9th	Mr. G. Buckley	Mr. A. Rae
16th	Mr. H. Mollor	Mrs. F. Butterworth
23rd	Mr. D. Fursey	Mrs. J. Duffy
30th	Counc. J. Harrison	Counc. I. Royle
Jan. 6th	Mr. J. Collins	Mrs. A. Collins

ELDERS ROTA

EVENING DOOR STEWARDS

Dec. 2nd	Mrs. N. Settle
9th	Mr. J. Wild
16th	Mrs. E. Gillon
23rd	NO EVENING SERVICE
24th	Mr. R. Gillon
30th	Mr. B. Clough
Jan. 6th	Miss M. Wood

ORGANIST/PIANIST

EVENING WORSHIP

Mr. D. Logan
Mr. J. Emmott
Mr. A. Clegg
Mr. D. Lynch
Mrs. C. Hey
Mr. D. Logan

COMMUNION ROTA

Dec. 2nd	Mr. K. Hey	Mrs. M. Howarth
Jan. 6th	Mrs. N. Settle	Mr. B. Clough

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

Dec. 2nd	Mrs. H. Whithead	Mrs. Greenhalgh
9th	Mrs. E. Garside	Mrs. J. Calow
16th	Mrs. C. Hey	Mrs. M. Mellor
23rd	Mrs. J. Cudworth	Mrs. N. Settle
30th	Mrs. K. Reid	Mrs. P. Royle
Jan. 6th	Mrs. E. Busill	Miss I. Tither

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

OFFERTORIES

	Cash		Envelopes	Total
	am.	pm.		
Oct. 7th	9.64	14.29½	56.55	80.48½
14th	5.45½	60	9.80	15.85½
21st	5.17	3.30	16.17½	24.64½
28th	6.40	95	15.56½	22.91½
	£26.66½	£19.14½	£98.09	£143.90

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

Dec. 3rd	Mr. F. Ingham	Mr. H.N. Hill	
9th	Mr. E. Holt	Mr. J. Lord	
16th	Mr. J. Hill	Mrs. A. Stott	10.30
	Mrs. E. Crossley	Mr. J. Holt	6.00
23rd	Mr. J. Nairn	Mr. F. Ingham	
30th	Mr. H.N. Hill	Mr. E. Holt	
Jan. 6th	Mr. J. Lord	Mrs. Stott	

ELDERS COMMUNION ROTA

Dec. 23rd	Mr. F. Ingham	Mr. F.G. Simpson
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COFFEE ROTA

Dec. 2nd	S. Moss	D. Mallinson
9th	B. Leach	B. Hartley
16th	K. Hill	L. Butterworth
23rd	B. Holt	A. Merrick
30th	W. Spinks	J. Law
Jan. 6th	J. Hobbs	J. Simpson

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FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

Dec. 2nd	"Born for us"	
	Isaiah 9: 2 - 7	K. Hill
9th	"Honest Justice"	
	Isaiah 11: 1 - 5	Carl Mallinson
16th	"Sackcloth or Compassion"	
	Isaiah 58: 6 - 10	P. Lightfoot
23rd	"On Earth His Peace"	
	Luke 2: 8 - 20	S. Moss
30th	"Eternal Life made Visible"	
	1 John 1: 1 - 7	M. G. Hill

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

December

Sun. 2nd 11.00 am. Revd. A.V.J. Nash B.A.

TOY SERVICE

6.00 pm. Service of Word & Sacrament

Mon. 3rd 6.30 pm. Pilots and each Monday

Tues. 4th 7.30 pm. Women's Guild Christmas Party

Wed. 5th 7.30 pm. Whist Drive

Sat. 8th 3.00 pm. Christmas Afayre

Opened by PILOTS

7.00 pm. Family Church Christmas Dance

Sun. 9th 11.00 am. Mrs. M. Jeffrey

Reception of Missionary Boxes

6.00 pm. Revd. A.V.J. Nash B.A.

1st Collection of Christmas Post

Wed. 12th 7.30 pm. Elders Meeting

7.30 pm. Whist Drive

Sun. 16th 11.00 am. Revd. A.V.J. Nash B.A.

6.00 pm. Mr. A. Roberts - CAROL SERVICE

(2nd Collec.-Post) Special music by the choir.

Mon. 17th 6.30 pm. Carol singing round the district

Sun. 23rd 11.00 am. Mrs. M. Nash

NO EVENING SERVICE

Mon. 24th 11.30 pm. CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Conducted by Rev.A.V.J. Nash B.A.

Sun. 30th 11.00 am. Revd. A.V.J. Nash B.A.

6.00 pm. "

1974

January

Wed. 2nd 1.30 pm. Junior Church Visit to
Pantomime.

Sun. 6th 11.00 am. Revd. A.V.J. Nash B.A.

6.00 pm. Service of Word & Sacramen

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FLOWERS FOR THE COMMUNION TABLE

Dec. 2nd Mrs. J. Calow Mrs. Clowes

9th Mrs. D. Emmott

16th Mrs. L. Prince

23rd Mrs. N. Stott

30th Mrs. E. Garside Mrs. I. Collins

Jan. 6th Mrs.E.Gillon Mrs.A.Wood Mrs.D.Howarth

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY =====

December

Sun. 2nd 10.30 am. Mr. A. Roberts
 Mon. 3rd 7.00 pm. Helpers wanted to put up
 Christmas Decorations, please.
 Tues. 4th 7.30 pm. Women's Guild Christmas supper
 plus?????
 Wed. 5th 6.45 pm. Pilots
 Sat. 8th Conference at Waddow Hall
 Sun. 9th 10.30 am. Revd. A.V.J. Nash B.A.-TOY SERVICE
 Toys received by
 Mr. & Mrs. R. Vincent

Note: NO EVENING SERVICE

Wed. 12th 6.45 pm. Pilots
 Sun. 16th 10.30 am. Mrs. Gillon
 6.00 pm. Revd. A.V.J. Nash B.A.
 CAROL SERVICE
 Wed. 18th 7.00 pm. Pilots Christmas Celebrations.
 All age groups welcome!
 Sun. 23rd 10.30 am. Revd. A.V.J. Nash B.A. (Communion)
 Tues. 25th CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
 (Time & place to be announced)
 Sun. 30th 10.30 am. Mrs. Nash

January

Tues. 1st Visit to Pantomime

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

December 2nd	Mrs. E. Holt
9th	Mrs. J.A. Leach
16th	Mrs. H. Jones
23rd	Mrs. Mellor
30th	Mrs. Vincent
January 6th	Mrs. Hill

OFFERTORIES

	<u>Cash</u>	<u>Envelopes</u>
Oct. 14th	£2.43	£13.32
21st	£1.72	£ 8.47 $\frac{1}{2}$
28th	£1.61 $\frac{1}{2}$	£ 8.05
Nov. 4th	£1.17 $\frac{1}{2}$	£ 8.54 $\frac{1}{2}$
11th	£3.99 $\frac{1}{2}$	£12.59 $\frac{1}{2}$

CHURCH SECRETARIES:

MILNROW

Mr. Allan Roberts,
54 Beechfield Road,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 42243

LITTLEBOROUGH

Mr. F.G. Simpson,
121 Calderbrook Road,
Littleborough.
Tel: 061 834 4402
(Business)

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Tel: ROCHDALE 41916

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HOSPITAL VISITORS

MILNROW: Miss M. Wood
Mrs. A. Wood
Mrs. E. Starkie
Miss A. Memory

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